



System of Environmental Economic Accounting



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Environmental
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Accounting

Review of UNCEEA Membership

14th UNCEEEA Meeting
New York, USA



United Nations

Overview

- The need
- Current membership
- Potential changes to membership

The need

- To ensure the Committee is effectively carrying out its broad *umbrella function in providing overall vision, coordination, prioritisation and direction in the field of environmental-economic accounting and related statistics*
- Evaluation of:
 - > Whether current members are engaged and actively contributing to the programme of work
 - > Activities and priorities of non-UNCEEA members
 - > Whether current membership is able to meet new demands and areas of focus

Current membership

- Terms of Reference: Committee comprises *high-level experts from national governments and international organizations with a broad range of experience in statistics and in uses of the environmental-economic accounts. Members would also be selected so as to ensure equitable regional representation*
- Currently 27 countries and 17 international/regional organizations in the UNCEEA
- Membership has been implemented in a flexible manner thus far (all interested parties have been accommodated)

Current membership: countries

- All country representation from national statistical offices
- Highest concentration in Europe, lowest in Oceania
- Equal split between developing/developed
- Participation varies widely, both in terms of attendance of UNCEEA meetings and participation in Bureau/Work Areas

Region	Number of countries	Percentage
Africa	3	11.1%
Americas	6	22.2%
Asia	7	25.9%
Europe	9	33.3%
Oceania	2	7.4%

Number of meetings attended between 2016-2019	Number of countries	Percentage
0	0	0%
1	2	7.4%
2	2	7.4%
3	7	25.9%
4	16	59.3%

Current membership: organizations

- Participation varies widely
- Nine out of 17 organizations participate in UNCEEA Bureau and/or Work Areas

Number of meetings attended between 2016-2019	Number of organizations	Percentage
0	1	5.9%
1	3	17.6%
2	5	29.4%
3	2	11.8%
4	6	35.3%

Potential changes to membership

- Countries
 - > Trade-off between equitable regional representation and having countries with more experience in compilation
 - > Secretariat has received requests for membership from new countries
- International organizations
 - > Balance between international organizations and countries
 - > Mandates of some international organizations tangentially related to SEEA, others focus heavily on the SEEA and SEEA-relevant topics

Potential changes to membership

- Non-NSOs
 - > More and more implementation being done by Ministries of Environment, Finance or Planning, as well as NGOs
 - > Have become producers and users of the accounts
- Expansion of focus
 - > Mainstreaming of the accounts
 - > Focus on communication

Questions for the UNCEEA

- Does the Committee believe there is an optimal size for the UNCEEA?
- What are the Committee's views on the trade-off between regional representation of countries vs having countries with more experience in compilation?
- What are the Committee's views on representation from international organizations? Is the current proportion of IO members too high or low?
- What are the Committee's views on representation from non-National Statistical Offices?
- What would be the appropriate mechanism for determining membership? Is it advisable to have more formal rules and rotating membership, as with the IAEG-SDG? Or is preferred to maintain a more flexible membership policy?

THANK YOU

seea@un.org